

overall bill. Only two Senators voted against the measure on final passage—Senator SIMON and ARLEN SPECTER. If we do not follow the rules and don't proceed in a principled way, we are doing serious damage to the institutions and procedures which are set up not for one special case but to govern our conduct generally.

I think it is especially important because this breach of our rules comes within 3 days of our passage of the omnibus appropriations bill where again we breached the rules. The Constitution calls for a separation of powers. It calls for the Congress to legislate on appropriations, and submit appropriations bills to the President for his consideration. If he signs it, it is law. If he vetoes it, the Congress can override the veto by a two-thirds vote. But that wasn't done on the omnibus appropriations bill.

The President's Chief of Staff, Leon Panetta, sat in on the deliberations and negotiations with the Congress, which is a serious constitutional breach. The President had delegated to the Chief of Staff authority to act for the President. What Chief of Staff Panetta said became the President's conclusion, but the President does not have the authority to delegate his responsibility under the United States Constitution.

In the end, that was an important bill. It had provisions for funding for education, which I supported; provisions for funding for Health and Human Services, which I supported; provisions for funding workplace safety, which I supported—all of which come under the jurisdiction of the subcommittee which I chair, the Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services.

I think, Mr. President, as we rush to leave Washington that we are setting some very bad precedents and creating some very bad rules. I was one of, I think, 14 Senators to vote against the omnibus appropriations bill because I thought we were doing violence to the U.S. Constitution. We did that because we couldn't move through the legislative process in due course. Extraneous amounts were added, something I spoke to at length last Saturday and on Monday. So I shall not repeat it here. There are other colleagues waiting to speak. But these rules are established.

I believe that the most precious gift America has is the U.S. Constitution. That sets the framework for our Government. Then we establish rules for our courts—our civil courts and our criminal courts. And we establish rules for the Congress. They are established in order to give due process. They are established in order to have a measure introduced, analyzed, and subjected to hearings where people can come in on both sides, testify. Then we can make an informed judgment. But when that is not done and when we violate those rules, we put our entire system at jeopardy. And that is wrong.

That is why I was one of the few Senators voting against the omnibus ap-

propriations bill, and one of only two Senators voting against this Federal Aviation Administration bill, recognizing the importance to my home State of Pennsylvania and to the entire country.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate now has a few other items that must be considered prior to the adjournment sine die. Most important of these, of course, is the Presidio parks issue, and the adoption of the adjournment resolution. I understand that there is no Senator that now has requested a vote on either of those, either the Presidio parks bill or the adjournment resolution.

With that in mind, there will be no further votes for the remainder of the 104th Congress. We hear some celebration on that.

I want to thank Senators who have been involved in that parks legislation, and the Senator from Alaska, particularly. He is very anxious to get that completed. He has worked hard at it. It has not been easy for him. He has made major concessions. But we were able to reach an agreement this morning that he can accept and the administration can accept, and that all Senators are comfortable with.

I thank the distinguished assistant majority leader, DON NICKLES, for his effort and time in this.

Mrs. BOXER. We are not finished quite yet on that.

Mr. LOTT. We are not quite finished. We are working at this very moment. And I think that is appropriate. The Senator from New Jersey and the Senator from California are here still working on this. We should get it done, and complete all of our action.

THE 105TH CONGRESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senators should be aware that the 105th Congress will convene at noon on Tuesday, January 7.

There had earlier been an indication that we would not need to do that on the 3d. But we have made a change and have agreed that it will be January 7 immediately following the swearing in of the newly elected Members of the 105th Congress.

A live quorum will occur. All Senators are requested to be present for this live quorum on January 7.

Also, Senators should be aware that Congress will count the electoral votes in the House Chamber at 1 p.m. on Thursday, January 9.

THANKS TO COLLEAGUES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank all of my colleagues for their cooperation throughout this Congress. It has been quite a learning experience for me as

the majority leader. But I have learned a great deal, and I had a lot of cooperation from a lot of Senators.

I thank the Democratic leadership, Senator DASCHLE and Senator FORD for their cooperation, and our leadership over here.

There has been a lot of patience all around. I thank them for that.

LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, also, one final note: Leadership elections for the 105th Congress will take place on Tuesday, December 3, and organizational and orientation meetings will occur throughout the day on Wednesday, December 4.

So we will have the organizational meetings December 3 and 4, and we will reconvene on the 7th of January for the necessary swearing in and for the counting of the electoral college votes then on the 9th.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEADERSHIP

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, let me congratulate the leadership as well on the conclusion of the 104th Congress. And, once again, to all of our retiring Members, I wish them all the very best in the coming years.

HARTFORD PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, this coming Sunday, the eyes of 75 to 80 million Americans will be squarely focused on the city of Hartford and the State of Connecticut as they host the first Presidential debate of the 1996 campaign between President Clinton and Senator Dole.

For Hartford and the people of my home State of Connecticut the unique opportunity to host this debate is both a great honor and a significant economic and cultural shot in the arm. I salute all those in the Hartford community who have played integral roles in bringing the Presidential candidates to our capital city.

In particular, I want to commend the Bank of Boston, Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance, Trinity College, and Southern New England Telephone played critical roles as the four founding sponsors of the debate.

In addition, Daniel Papermaster, who has labored tirelessly to bring a Presidential debate to Hartford, deserves